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MARVEL COMICS GROUP



27
FEB 02199

PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

I SENSE DEADLY
DANGER, DAREDEVIL—
BUT I CAN'T SEE IT!
I'M BLIND!

MARVEL'S
TV
SENSATION!



THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

BILL MANTLO * FRANK MILLER * FRANK SPRINGER * MARY JO DUFFY * JAMES SNOOTER
WRITER * GUEST-PENCILER * INKER * EDITOR PRO-TEM * EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN IS BLIND!

RENDERED SIGHTLESS BY THE MASKED MARAUDER, ACCUSED OF COMPLICITY AND HUNTED BY THE POLICE--

-- SPIDEY FLED INTO THE NIGHT WHERE, COVERING IN DARKNESS, HE WAS DISCOVERED BY THE ONE MAN WHO CAN TRULY UNDERSTAND HIS ANGUISH-- ONE WHO IS BLIND, THOUGH FEW INDEED KNOW IT-- THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR...

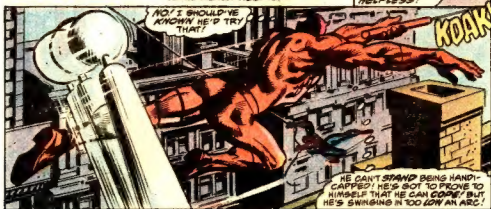
DAREDEVIL

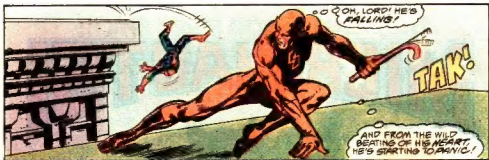
D-DARE-DEVIL, WHERE--?

OVER HERE, WALLCRAWLER! CAN YOU SWING ACROSS THE STREET?

DENSE HOWL LETTERS BOB SHAREN COLORS

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AND FROM THE WILD BEATING OF HIS HEART, HE'S STARTING TO PANIC!



I'VE GOT TO GET BELOW HIM! AH, WIND RUSHING PAST A... FLAGPOLE! PERFECT!



GOT YOU, FELLA! NOW HANG TIGHT!

THEY CAME FROM INNER SPACE!

THE MICRONAUTS!

ARE
HERE!

ON
SALE
NOW!



--PLUS THE ENIGMATIC TIME TRAVELLER BATTLE THE EVIL BARON
KARZA IN AN ALL-NEW SPACE-SPANNING ADVENTURE SERIES BY...
BILL MANTLO · MICHAEL GOLDEN · JOSEF RUBENSTEIN





BEHOLD THE MARVEL GALAXY OF SUPER STARS!

THE MAN CALLED

NOVA

CAPTAIN MARVEL

ALL
AT YOUR
NEWSSTAND
NOT VERY
FAR, FAR,
AWAY!

THE
INCREDIBLE

HULK

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI

MASTER OF KUNG FU

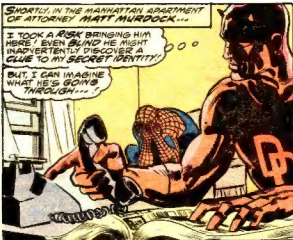
DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

SHORTLY, IN THE MANHATTAN APARTMENT OF ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK...

I TOOK A RISK BRINGING HIM HERE! EVEN BLIND HE MIGHT INADVERTENTLY DISCOVER A CLUE TO MY SECRET IDENTITY!

BUT, I CAN IMAGINE WHAT HE'S GOING THROUGH...



AS DAREDEVIL'S HYPERSENSITIVE FINGERTIPS "READ" THE YELLOW PAGES, HIS MIND RACES BACK...



ROBBED OF HIS SIGHT BY A BLOW FROM A METAL CANNISTER BEARING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS, YOUNG MATT MURDOCK FOUND HIS OTHER SENSES MYSTERIOUSLY HEIGHTENED!

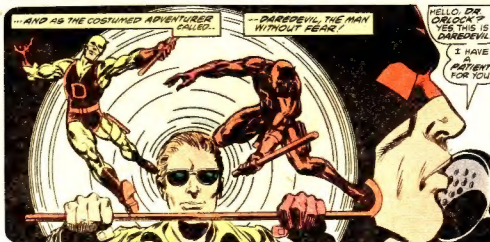


*SEE THE CLASSIC, LEE-EVERETT DAREDEVIL #1--JO.

MAKING USE OF HIS NEW-FOUND POWER AND ABILITY, MATT AVENGED THE MURDER OF HIS FATHER AND EMBARKED UPON A DUAL CAREER--AS A TALENTED LAWYER...

...AND AS THE COSTUMED ADVENTURER CALLED...

--DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!



SECONDS LATER, IN THE PARK AVENUE OFFICES OF DR. HENRY ORLOCK, OPTHALMOLOGIST...



NURSE, CANCEL MY AFTERNOON APPOINTMENTS--

--WE'RE EXPECTING A VERY UNUSUAL PATIENT!



AND DR. ORLOCK SITS DOWN... TO WAIT!

EOP
STUDE
ORDENVO
BLTMZAG
MYFTLKD
WYDZAG

WHILE... ORLOCK'S A GOOD MAN A--ER--FRIEND, OF MINE RECOMMENDED!



IF ANYONE CAN FIND A CURE--HE CAN!

SPIDER-MAN CAN ONLY NOD HELPLESSLY!

WHILE ON THE STOOP OF PETER PARKER'S CHELSEA APARTMENT...



MARY JANE, I'M ALMOST GLAD PETER WASN'T HOME, AND WE HAD THIS CHANCE TO TALK!

ME, TOO, BETTY! I'M SORRY I MADE THAT CRACK ABOUT PETEY ASKING ME TO MARRY HIM!

HE DID-- AND I TURNED HIM DOWN-- NOT BECAUSE I DIDN'T LOVE HIM-- BUT BECAUSE I'M NOT READY FOR MARRIAGE!

I SEE LAST ISSUE-- JO



I WISH I'D HAD THAT KIND OF MATURITY WHEN NED ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM -- INSTEAD OF JUMPING AT THE SECURITY!



WELL, YOU SEEM TO HAVE SURVIVED! LISTEN, JUST BECAUSE WE'RE SEEING THE SAME GUY DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T BE CIVIL TO EACH OTHER!

MORE THAN JUST CIVIL, MJ-- WE CAN BE FRIENDS!

SOLID! & LONG FRIEND!

AND WHEN THE LADIES
HAVE LEFT...

SUREB! IT AIN'T
BAD ENOUGH BEIN'
PARKER'S LAND-
LADY...

--NOW I
GOTTA
OVERHEAR
THE DETAILS
OF HIS
LOVELIFE!

THUMP!
SKRAK!

CRACK

"I DON'T
GET IT! I
RENT TA
MURDER'S
SOMETHING..."

--BUT THEM
SOUNDS IS
COMIN' FROM
PARKER'S
APARTMENT--

--AN ACCORDIN'
TA HIS GIRL-
FRIENDS HE
AINT HOME!

B-BUT HIS DOOR'S
OPEN!

TH-THIS IS ONE
A' THEM TIMES I
W-WISH MY
BARNY WAS
HOME

FEARFULLY, MRS
MURDER PEERS IN
PETER'S DOORWAY.

AND WITNESSES A
SCENE OF RAINLESS
CARNAGE! --

DESTRUCTION!

...AND...
TERROR

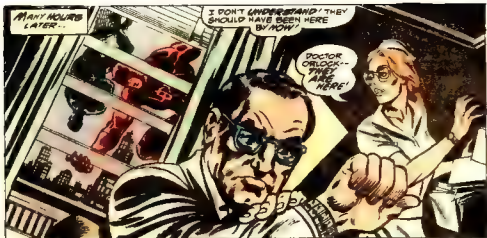
THE DEAD
WALK
PARKER

TRADEMARKS ALL
THE MALLEVOLENT...
CARRION!

SOON,
PARKER,
YOU
MUST
RETURN--

AND I WILL BE
WAITING!

AND TREAD
THE THIN
AIR,
CAUTIONOUS
IN
DARKNESS!



MANY HOURS
LATER...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! THEY
SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE
BY NOW!

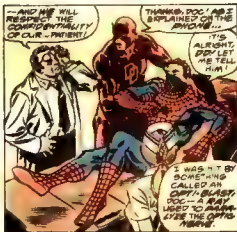
DOCTOR
ORLOCK--
THEY
ARE
HERE!



SORRY IT TOOK US
SO LONG, SIR! I
THOUGHT IT BEST
TO WAIT 'TIL AFTER
NIGHTFALL!

DOCTOR--
HELPING SPIDER-
MAN? B-BUT--
THAT CITY-CORP
ROBBERY! THE
POLICE!

ARE OFTEN AND--
TAKEN NURSE WILLS--



--AND HE WILL
RESPECT THE
CONFIDENTIALITY
OF OUR PATIENT!

THANKS, DOC! AS I
EXPLAINED ON THE
PHONE...

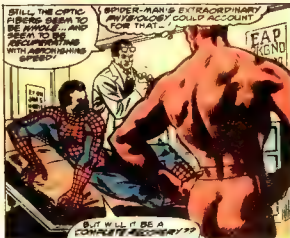
IT'S
ALRIGHT,
DOC! LET
ME TELL
HIM!

I WASN'T BY
SOMETHING
CALLED AN
OPTIC-BLAST,
DOC-- A TOOL
USED TO ANAL-
YZE THE OPTIC
NERVE.



I--I NEED TO KNOW... IS THE
PARALYSING TESTIMONY--
OR WILL I BE BLIND FOREVER?

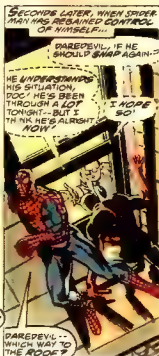
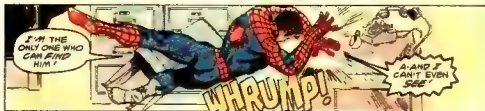
YOU SOUND AS IF YOU'VE HAD SCEN-
TIFIC TRAINING, MY BOY! IF SO, YOU
ARE AWARE OF THE RISKS THAT
SUCH A SEVERE ANGIO-SHOCK
ENTAILS!



STILL, THE OPTIC
FIBERS SEEM TO
BE WHOLE... AND
SEEM TO BE
RECOVERING WITH
ASTONISHING
SPEED!

SPIDER-MAN'S EXTRAORDINARY
PHYSIOLOGY COULD ACCOUNT
FOR THAT!

BUT WILL IT BE A
COMPLETE RECOVERY??



MOMENTS LATER, HIGH ABOVE PARK AVENUE...

I'VE GOT TO TREAD CAREFULLY NOW IF I APPEAR AT ALL CONDESCENDING IT COULD TRIGGER ANOTHER OUTBURST!

AND, ON THE TRAIL OF A VILLAIN AS COLD-BLOODED AS THE MASKED MARAUDER, THAT COULD VERY WELL PROVE FATAL!

WELL, WHAT NOW, WEBHEAD? YOU'RE CALLING THE SHOTS!

ALL RIGHT--MY SPIDER-TRACER EMITS A REDDISH SIGNAL! I MANAGED TO ATTACH ONE TO THE MARAUDER'S CAPE!

AND NOW DO WE HOME IN ON ITS SIGNAL?

I'VE GOT CERTAIN SENSORS... BEYOND THE ORDINARY WHICH CAN DETECT THE TRACER'S BEAM!

DD, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I WANT YOU TO KNOW--IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME!

I--I HID MY FACE FROM YOU IN THE DOC'S OFFICE! BUT NOW--!

SPIDER-MAN REACHES FOR HIS MASK... THEN HESITATES!

I--I CAN'T DO IT!

I--IF I... IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, THE NEWSPAPERS WILL IDENTIFY ME!

YOU'RE GETTING MORBID AGAIN! SNAP OUT OF IT!

--OR YOU'RE LIABLE TO GET US BOTH KILLED!

LET'S JUST GO, HUH?

WHOA! HO, D UP, WALL-CRAWLER!

THE MARAUDER'D HAVE A NECKTIE LAUGH IF YOU DIED WALKING OFF A ROOF!

HESITANTLY, SPIDER-MAN ACCEPTS PARDONVILLE'S ADVICE...

Any guesses as to the identity of Carrion yet, True Believers? Time's running out, and we won't be rewarding any No-Prizes after the issue in which his sinister secret is revealed hits the stands (only two short months from now!). So wrack your brains and exercise your nimble little writing fingers. You wouldn't want us to surprise you, would ya?

Dear Guys,
PPTSS #22 was excellent! Thank you.

Scott Loffman
17173 Strawberry Drive
Encino, CA 91436

Dear Bill and Mike,

PPTSS #22 was great, especially the intricate plotting. In the last two issues the switch from two-parters to a more open-ended format is really beginning to show. But, on page 11, panel 3, a caption reads: "Betty Brant returned in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #182" Sorry. She returned in #183. Is it No Prize time?

Pat Breer
243 03 Thornhill Avenue
Douglaston, NY 11302

Yep—though it was an honest mistake. A fill-in issue (AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #181) was inserted out of continuity to give Marv and Ross a chance to evade the dread Deadline Doom, but that affected Bill's notations in PPTSS #22. Still, your No-Prize (or a reasonable facsimile) is on its way.

Dear Marvel,

I've just finished reading PPTSS #22, and I was really pleased with your work. It was great to see Moon Knight in a Spider-Man book (finally)! But I do have a couple of complaints: What ever happened to the scrawny Peter Parker we used to know and read about? In PPTSS #21 he looked like a white-skinned version of the Hulk! The art, however, was great—in fact, the best I've ever seen on PPTSS. Mike Zeck may not be Steve Ditko, but he's no slouch.

David Minson
3740 S 96th East Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74145

Gee, Dave—we didn't think Mike's rendering of Pete was all that different from John Romita's, Gil Kane's, John Buscema's, Larry Lieber's, Sal Buscema's, Ross Andru's, Jim Mooney's or half a dozen other Marvel artists who've penciled and inked our web-headed hero since the dawn of the Marvel Age of comics. We're not contradicting you, only suggesting that maybe your impression of Pete's physical appearance is more in the mind than on the printed page... a tribute, if that's the case, to a Marvel writer's power of suggestion, as it were.

Querido Marvel,

The reason I liked Spider-Man in the very beginning was that Spidey was different, true to life, his adventures a perfect blend of fantasy, reality and soap opera melodrama. True, PETER PARKER: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN was created to focus on Spidey's alter ego, but PPTSS has only been reinforcing that idea. I think the more the writers work under the guidance of B. Mantlo and the various artists, the more worked on the m'g. However, if B. & Co. were to concentrate more on the melodrama, the soap operish elements, they would have

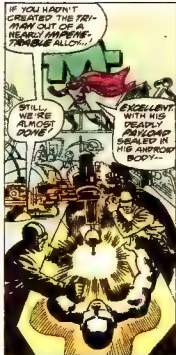
lost touch long ago with the essential mixture of fantasy and reality which is also necessary. Let's face it, folks. PPTSS is no "One Life to Live", and all those juicy tidbits about Pete's private life can be told in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN equally as well. So why all the fuss? I'd rather see super-hero vs. super-villain battles in PPTSS than stories such as "Why Does Flash Thompson Like Sha Shan?" or "The Secret Marriage of Mary Jane Watson and the Original Green Goblin!" or even "Peter Parker Remembers Gwen Stacy!" Those stories have their place, but not, I suggest, in PPTSS.

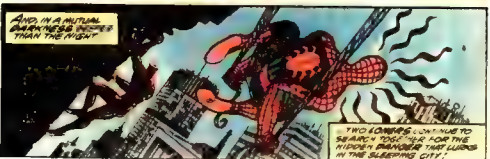
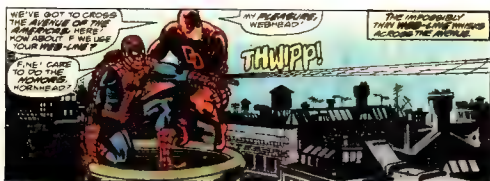
I also find the White Tiger's appearances in PPTSS refreshing. I feel he makes the book more believable because his character serves as living proof that not all heroes are lily-white. The Tiger is more (much more!) than a boring Kung Fu star (I think Bill intended from the very beginning that he be more than that, too!) in that he represents and symbolizes the hopes and aspirations of one of America's most underrated and down-trodden ethnic groups... the Hispanics. Dig, the only time we Hispanics get media coverage is when someone commits a purse-snatching or robs a bank or starts a revolution. Otherwise, we're ignored. Marvel's White Tiger is the only Hispanic in American literature who hasn't been stereotyped. It'd be a sad day for all if Marvel were to limit or cancel his appearances in PPTSS because it would mean that America's promise of a better life for all does not extend to America's Spanish-speaking people. How a fan like Jeffery Lowndes can call the White Tiger boring just proves to me that some people can't overcome their dislikes. Nobody who has followed the White Tiger since his original appearance in DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU can find the White Tiger boring. He is the most exciting new hero to emerge since Spider-Man. If only Marvel could overcome its own unconscious prejudices and realize that, it might well have a best-selling book on its hands: THE WHITE TIGER!

Hector Rambla
712 West 176th Street
NYC, NY 10033

So far you're not alone in your admiration for the Tiger, Hector. The mail's been running an easy five to one in favor of keeping Hector Ayala at least as a supporting character in PPTSS, with half of that majority expressing an interest in a book for the Tiger. Who knows what the future holds?







**ACTION!
DRAMA!
THRILLS!**
AND
MUCH MORE!

**DOUG MOENCH AND MIKE ZECK
BRING YOU:**

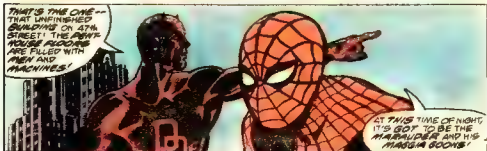
**THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,
MASTER OF
KUNG FU**

**ON
SALE
NOW!**



**A NEW STANDARD
OF COMIC ART
EXCELLENCE!**

zecco



WHILE, IN THE PENTHOUSE
ON 47th STREET...

GOOD EVENING, MR.
MAYOR -- I AM THE
MASKED MARAUDER,
LEADER OF THE
MAGGIA!

I -- AM -- SUPPOSE YOU HAVE SOME EARTH-
SHATTERING THING TO CONTACT ME IN
THE MIDST OF EXTREMELY SENSITIVE
UNION NEGOTIATING, MARAUDER...?

FOOL! WHAT ARE MERE LABOR
DISPUTES COMPARED WITH...

--THIS?!
YOU ARE
LOOKING AT
MY TRI-MAN,
MR. MAYOR.

TAP
TAP

TRI AS IN
THREE BEINGS
IN ONE!

IN HIS HUMANOID AND BIRD
FORMS HE SUCCESSFULLY
PLUNDERED THE CITYCORD
CENTER YESTERDAY EVENING
OBTAINING THE CASH I
NEEDED--

--TO PURCHASE THE BRAIN-
POWER OF A FAMOUS NU-
CLEAR PHYSICIST CURRENTLY
LIVING...ABROAD!

AND, WITH HIS
ASSISTANCE, A
WARHEAD WAS
IMPLANTED IN
MY CREATION--

--ARMED WITH
A PAYLOAD OF
PLUTONIUM
WHICH MY MEN
HIJACKED LAST
WEEK IN NEW
JERSEY! *

* SEE PAGES
24 -- JO.

THIS, IN ITS
THIRD INCAR-
NATION, MY
TRI-MAN HAS
BECOME...

... A BOMBROID! CAPABLE OF LEVELLING
THE FINANCIAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD IN
ONE BEARING ATOMIC EXPLOSION WHICH
WILL MAKE HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI
PALE BY COMPARISON!

AND ALL I
ASK IS TO
PREVENT IT--
IS THAT NEW
YORK BE TURNED
OVER TO THE
MAGGIA...
IMMEDIATELY!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, here it is. For once I remembered what I promised to write about last issue! Here's where you get a serious opinion as to the real difference in editorial approach between our competitors and Marvel. There have been more letters asking me to discuss this subject than any other (and I'd hate to find out that they're all from the competition 'cause they wanna know how we do it)!

Basically, it seems to me that we write about people while they write about things. We're concerned with the psychological problems and urges that motivate our characters, while the other company prefers to dwell on what happened, how did it happen, and how do we catch the bad guy? Perhaps another way of saying it is, we write for the older reader, for those who are interested in true-to-life dialogue, in absorbing sub-plots and secondary story lines, and in provocative, imaginative themes to boggle the mind. We like to flavor our yarns with satire, with offbeat philosophical concepts, and with controversial subjects. On the other hand, our competitors' mags are aimed at a younger market, which is the reason their stories are generally simpler and more basic in approach.

Now then, I don't mean to sound smug and self-satisfied. I've been telling you the type of stories we aim for, but I'm not claiming a bulls-eye each time around. As all true believers know, we've certainly come up with our own share of clinkers, of stories that could have been and should have been better. But when we manage to get our act together, we sure come up with some winners!

And now I'll turn you loose while I start to research next month's column. As previously promised, I'm gonna give you the top-secret lowdown on the monumental mystery behind Honest Irving Forbush! Is he man or myth? Is he talent or turkey? Is he bigger than a breadbox? All this and more shall be fearlessly revealed when we meet again next issue! Till then, remember—audentes fortuna juvat!

Excellior!

Stan

ITEM! It was one of those days—a desperately-late SPIDER-WOMAN cover was lost, the stat machine was broken, the water pipes were frozen (in August, yet!) and the paychecks were late. In fact, things were so bad that editor ROGER (Stern) STERN was seen standing on the 6th story window ledge, reading his last will and testament aloud. Just after he had bequeathed away his INCREDIBLE HULK t-shirt to assistant editor Masterful MARK GRUENWALD, the news came that once again, Mighty MARVEL COMICS had captured the lion's share of the prestigious EAGLE AWARDS, British fandom's highest honor. Among the winners were X-MEN, for best team and favorite

dramatic series; SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, for favorite Black-and-White magazine; HOWARD THE DUCK, for favorite humor series; JOHN CARTER, WARLORD OF MARS, for favorite new series; AVENGERS ANNUAL #7, "The Final Threat", for favorite single-issue story; and (oddly enough) that same story, and its sequel in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE ANNUAL #2, "Death Watch", for favorite continued story. Also honored were Timorous TERRY AUSTIN, as favorite inker; Thanos, as favorite villain; Pip the Troll, as favorite supporting character; and The Silver Surfer, as character most worthy of his own feature. That delightful news perked up just about everyone around the office, especially Roger Stern, proud editor of both JOHN CARTER and X-MEN. Good ol' Rog stepped down off the window sill and headed for his desk, happy as a clam! Mark was somewhat disappointed, however, at not getting his promised t-shirt, but we'll all chip in and buy him one—if the paychecks ever come!

ITEM! A quick welcome actually, for newly arrived ace colorist CARL (The Gaff) GAF-FORD and soon-to-be renowned inker Able AL GORDON! Check out their accomplishments in MARVEL PREMIERE #46, featuring Man-Wolf, and SPIDER-WOMAN #11, featuring the villainy of Brother Grimm, and then give us the verdict—should we keep these guys, or feed them to the alligators?



ITEM! A couple of years back a trio of talented gentlemen named Doug Moench, Paul Gulacy, and Dan Adkins combined their skills to bring the MASTER OF KUNG FU series to a breathtaking pinnacle of achievement in comics art. When, finally, circumstances separated this award-winning team, it seemed that things would never be quite right with Shang-Chi again. For a while, each succeeding issue brought new problems, artist and inker changes, natural disasters, plagues of locusts, and all the accompanying schedule ills which disturb the delicate balance of yin and yang necessary to produce Timeless Masterpieces. Undaunted, however, mighty Marvel pressed on, and, at long last recruited Miraculous MIKE ZECK, penciler, and Brash BRUCE PATTERSON, inker, to join Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH, writer, as regulars on MKKF. As each new issue rolls in from these talented and dedicated gentlemen, the feeling grows among those of us at 575 Madison that we are witnessing the evolution of a series destined to rival—nay,

surpass the classics of yesteryear. We could try to describe the way Mike's dynamic-yet-subtle penciling is complemented perfectly by Bruce's clean, bold, striking inkline, or how well the sheer lyrical power of the art blends with both Doug's oft-acclaimed scripting and Shang-Chi's unique personality, but we won't. Instead, we simply defy Marveldom Assembled to read issue #73 of MKKF, now on sale, which chronicles Shang-Chi's return to dreaded Mordillo's Island! You'll see!

ITEM! Gigantic Editor-in-Chief JIM SHOOTER answered the phone the other day, and who should be on the line but JOHN BELUSHI, star of stage, screen and NBC's comedy hit, SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE! Ever calm under pressure, Jim smoothly said, "Hey, John, you're fine. How am I?" But Jaunty John understood anyway, and proceeded to congratulate the Marvel crew for our creative efforts on MARVEL TEAM-UP #74, which featured Mr. Belushi and the other wild and crazy members of the Not-Ready-For-Prime-Time Players (shame on you if you missed it!). Later, John stopped by the hallowed halls to meet all the awe-struck armadillos, especially Chris Claremont, Bob Hall, Dave Cockrum, and Marie Severin, who crafted the issue in question; and to invite us to the Opening Night party for his new movie, Animal House. It was an honor, a pleasure, and a night to remember for us Bullpeners. By the way, be sure to see the flick, it's the cat's pajamas!

ITEM! So many great things are happening we can't begin to cover them all, but pay attention and we'll try to zip through some of them quickly. First, be sure to catch S'EC TACULAR SPIDER-MAN #27 which showcases the penciling of one of the most rapidly rising stars this industry has ever seen, namely FRANK MILLER. Lanky Frank's portrayal of the web-slinger's characteristic spider-like movement as he traverses the rooftops is sure to become a standard for spider-artists. And what'll you see what he does with a certain Fearless guest-star! After that, check out MS. MARVEL #22 and get in on the ground floor of what promises to be a super series of issues drawn by Meticulous MIKE VOSBURG. And, you'd be well advised to seek out current issues of both THE HULK and CAPTAIN AMERICA, between the pages of which rage the most memorable crossover of recent history. And as if that weren't enough, HOWARD THE DUCK is alive and well, and don't let anyone tell you different. Get down to your newsstand now, and you won't miss out! Okay? Okay!



